

AUTHORIZING THE LOAN OF CERTAIN NAVAL VESSELS TO GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

JULY 2 (legislative day, JUNE 27), 1952.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HUNT, from the Committee on Armed Services, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 8222]

The Committee on Armed Services, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 8222) to authorize the loan of certain naval patrol-type vessels to the Government of Japan, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to authorize the President to lend to the Government of Japan not to exceed 18 patrol frigates and 50 landing craft suitable for patrol purposes, for an initial period of 5 years, and upon request of the Government of Japan, for an additional period of 5 years. The bill requires that, prior to the delivery of the vessels, an agreement be concluded with the Government of Japan with respect to the loan of the vessels which would include provisions for the return of the vessels in substantially the same condition as when loaned.

EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

Description of the types of vessels involved

The patrol frigate (PF), standard displacement 1,430 tons, and the landing ship, support, large (LSSL), light displacement 250 tons, are the two classes of vessels available for this loan. The latter type was not designed to carry amphibious cargo or troops, but to provide for close-in fire support for landing operations, and to intercept inter-island barge traffic. They are therefore generally classified as patrol-type vessels.

Need for patrolling Japanese coastal waters

The Government of Japan has made a formal request to the United States Government for the immediate loan of 10 patrol frigates and 50 landing ships support large. The vessels would be employed by Japan as the nucleus of a coastal security force performing normal coast guard functions. The United States Navy has available above present active fleet requirements 10 patrol frigates and 50 support vessels of the type requested by the Japanese Government. It is also contemplated that eight other patrol frigates now in commission will be decommissioned due to ceiling limitations and may be made available to the Japanese Government.

It is in the interests of the United States Government to assist Japan to develop her security forces as soon as possible, thereby reducing United States operational requirements assumed under the security treaty between the United States of America and Japan. The committee is further of the opinion that this bill will assist materially in maintaining Japanese faith in the willingness of this country to assist in the security of Japan.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF DEPARTMENTS; COST DATA

It is not anticipated that any additional appropriations will be required to carry out the purposes of this bill. The ships in question have been and will be prepared for loan within regular Navy appropriations. Each patrol frigate originally cost \$2,542,000, and each of the support ships \$552,400. Total original cost of all the ships authorized to be loaned, is \$73,376,000. The total cost for overhauling and preparing the ships for loan will amount to \$21,300,000, but no additional appropriations will be required.

The Department of Defense recommends enactment of the proposed legislation and the Bureau of the Budget interposes no objection, as indicated by the following letter:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,
Washington, D. C.

Hon. SAM RAYBURN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: There is forwarded herewith a draft of proposed legislation to authorize the loan of certain naval patrol-type vessels to the Government of Japan.

This proposal is a part of the Department of Defense legislative program for 1952 and it has been approved by the Bureau of the Budget. The Department of Defense recommends that it be enacted by the Congress.

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to authorize the President to lend to the Government of Japan not to exceed 18 patrol frigates and 50 landing craft suitable for patrol purposes for an initial period of 5 years and upon request of the Government of Japan for an additional period of 5 years. The bill would require that, prior to the delivery of the vessels, an agreement be concluded with the Government of Japan with respect to the loan of the vessels which would include provisions for the return of the vessels in substantially the same condition as when loaned.

The patrol frigate (PF), standard displacement 1,430 tons, and the landing ship, support, large (LSSL), light displacement 250 tons, are the two classes of vessels available for this loan. The latter type was not designed to carry amphibious cargo or troops but to provide close in fire support for landing operations and to intercept interinland barge traffic. They are therefore generally classed as patrol-type vessels.

The Government of Japan has made a formal request to the United States Government for the immediate loan of 10 patrol frigates and 50 landing ships support large. The vessels would be employed by Japan as the nucleus of a coastal security force performing normal coast guard functions. The United States Navy has available above present active fleet requirements 10 patrol frigates and 50 support vessels of the type requested by the Japanese Government. It is also contemplated that eight other patrol frigates now in commission will be decommissioned due to ceiling limitations and may be made available to the Japanese Government.

It is considered to be in the interests of the United States Government to assist Japan to develop her security forces as soon as possible, thereby reducing United States operational requirements assumed under the security treaty between the United States of America and Japan. Further, it is deemed essential to maintain Japanese faith in our willingness to assist in the security of Japan.

COST AND BUDGET DATA

It is not anticipated that any additional appropriations will be required to carry out the purposes of this legislation.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ACTION AGENCY

The Department of the Navy has been designated as the representative of the Department of Defense for this legislation.

Sincerely yours,

CHARLES A. COOLIDGE.

○

